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#### Some Curious Features of the Court's Action in the Merger Case.

The more carefully one reads the decision rendered and the opinions read in the Northern Securities case the more unexpected and remarkable will appear some of the conclusions deducible from the proceedings.

We observe, in the first place, that if any one of the four Justices, HARLAN, BROWN, McKENNA and DAY, who concurred not only in the decision, but also in the reasons for the decision, set forth in the opinion which Justice HARLAN read, should presently be succeeded by a Democrat who should take the same view of the case as was expressed by the three other Democrats who are members of the tribunal-and if Justice HOLMES should adhere to the position which he has taken-the decision pronounced by the United States Supreme Court on Monday, March 14, would be reversed. That is to say, there is no certainty that Monday's decision will stand, even in a case identical with that presented by the Northern Securities Company.

In the second place, we find the three Democratic members of the tribunal. Chief Justice FULLER and Justices PECK-HAM and WHITE, announcing a more conservative view of the rights of capital than is expressed by a majority of their Republican colleagues-more conservative, indeed, than the three Democratic Justices themselves expressed in previous cases which have arisen under the Anti-Trust act. It was Justice PECKHAM who read the opinion in support of the decision reached in the Trans-Missouri Freight Association case, where the court held that the law prohibits all contracts in restraint of interstate trade. whether the rates prescribed by such contracts be reasonable or unreasonable. It was also Justice PECKHAM who read the majority opinion in the Joint Traffic Association case, when the court pronounced any combination illegal which should restrain commerce by shutting out the operation of the general law of competition. It was because of the opinions read by Justice PECKHAM in those cases that the four Judges composing the United States Circuit Court for the District of Minnesota unanimously held themselves constrained to issue the decree from which the Northern Securities Company appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

ship of stock of the Northern Pacific and Great. Northern companies by the Northern Securities Company, but also that, if the Anti-Trust act will bear such interpretation, it was ultra vires, because Congress has no power to forbid such acquisition and ownership. It is evident, when one compares the position now taken by three Democratic members of that occupied by them in the Trans-Missouri Freight Association and Joint Traffic cases, that there has been a material recession from the extreme position taken, or supposed to have been taken, by them in the two former cases.

When we say that the judgment of the United States Supreme Court in a case identical with that presented by the Northern Securities Company would evidently be reversed should any one of the four members of the tribunal who concurred in the majority opinion be succeeded by a Democrat holding views similar to those expressed by Chief Justice FULLER or Justices PECKHAM and WHITE, we have not exhausted the interesting inferences that may be drawn from the divergence of the opinions expressed on Monday, March 14. Not only did Justice Holmes, a Republican, accept in an opinion of his own the two he is so preeminently successful. Why positions formulated in Justice White's | does not an artist stop painting pictures opinion, but another Republican, Justice BREWER, though he concurred in the decision and by his concurrence made it possible, repudiated most of the reasons for that decision set forth by his colleague, Justice HARLAN. Justice BREWER, like his three Democratic colleagues, had formed part of a majority of the court in the Trans-Missouri Freight Association and Joint Traffic cases, but, as regards the breadth of the principle then enunciated, he now, like them, is inclined to cry peccavi. He now holds that, while those two former cases were artists and men of science. With their rightly decided, the opinions defending the decision went too far when they declared that all contracts which conceivably might exercise restraint on interstate trade, whether such restraint should be reasonable or unreasonable, were violations of the Anti-Trust act. He now maintains that Congress, by the and mechanical invention, so far as statute in question, only intended to money can give it, and the multiplicity nullify such contracts as should be shown to be unreasonable and against public policy. Justice BREWER explains at some length why he considers the device embodied in the Northern Securities Company against public policy; but, inasmuch as but for his concurrence the majority decision could not have been rendered, he makes it plain that from his dissenting opinion, examined in connection with the dissenting opinions of Justices WHITE and HOLMES-and not from the opinion read by Justice HAR-LAN-is to be educed the probable course of a majority of the court in cases not absolutely identical with that presented by the Northern Securities Company.

For instance, Justice BREWER frankly says-herein manifestly concurring with the four dissenting Judges-that if Mr. JAMES J. HILL were the owner of a majority of the stock in the Great Northern Railway Company he could not by any act of Congress be deprived of the right of purchasing stock in the Northern Pacific Railway Company, although such purchase might tend to vest in him a control over both companies. A diametrically opposite conclusion would obviously be reached by the four Justices concurring in the opinion read by Justice

HARLAN. While to those who do not look below the surface the decision rendered in the Northern Securities cases may seem a serious blow to effective combinations of capital, there is no doubt that the opinions read, if sharply scrutinized and compared with one another, bear witness to a marked recession from the dangerous ground formerly taken; or, in other words, to a signal advance toward a wise, far-sighted and conservative position on the part of five out of nine members of the tribunal. We refer, of course, to Justices BREWER and Holmes, Republicans, and to Chief Justice Fuller and Justices Peckham and WHITE, Democrats.

#### No Place for an Officer and a Gentleman.

The House Committee on Military Affairs has refused to allow Col. T. W. SYMONS of the Engineer Corps of the Army to accept membership of Governor ODELL's Barge Canal Commission. We congratulate Col. SYMONS upon this providential interposition. No officer of the United States Army and no gentleman could afford to accept such an appointment, or indeed any appointment at Governor ODELL's hands, and we regard it as an uncommon misfortune to Col. Symons that his name should have even been mentioned in connection with Governor Opell's commission.

We are far from desiring to impute any taint or stain to Col. SYMONS, and we conceive that any sufficient understanding on his part of the nature of the appointment would have insured its prompt and indignant repudiation.

### The Limitations of Millionaires.

A lady of Connecticut sends us an editorial article clipped from a California paper, the Sunday Times of Los Angeles, which, in her opinion, "it would be good for the millionaires to see"; for the article suggests to "millionaires who have more money than they know what to do with' that they "devote a portion of their surplus to seeking out and encouraging artistic and professional workers who are doing really good service to their generation, while not enriching them-

Now, in the first place, there are no such millionaires. No millionaire has "more money than he knows what to do with," and the proof of this is that millionaires generally are trying hard to get more money. ' Undoubtedly, the management of a great estate is always a very difficult matter. The more money a man has the more vexatious becomes the problem of its safe investment. If he puts it into real estate he loads him-Now, however, Justice PECKHAM and self with many cares in the maintenance also Chief Justice Fuller concur in the of his property and the collection of his opinion read by Justice WHITE, which | rents, and he kicks against his taxes. holds not only that the Anti-Trust act | If he puts it in stocks and bonds he must of 1890 does not, when properly inter- acquaint himself with the character of preted, cover the acquisition and owner- the securities-know all about themand the selection of them out of the great mass on the market is a difficult task.

Millionaires, therefore, are usually kept

busy in the simple management of their money. All the same, the experience of mankind shows that they are ready, even eager, to increase their money burdens by adding to their fortunes They have not "more money than they the United States Supreme Court with know what to do with," even if their fortunes are great enough to make the interest on their accumulations already made far more than is required for their living expenses—even if, as in many cases. the very interest on the income their capital yields is more and far more than they spend. Instead of lightening their load of money and diminishing the consequent embarrassment in finding safe investments for it, we discover from observation that they are hard at work to increase the capital. The more money they have, too, the more extended and various are the enterprises and undertakings into which its investment leads them, necessarily. Mr. ROCKEFELLER. for example, is forced by his fortune to laborious service in many institutions, financial and other. He is a hard worked man; yet, like men generally, he finds enjoyment in doing the work at which when he is rich enough to need no more money? The fame which has brought him his fortune is only a new stimulus to him to continue the use of his powers. What man of science who has made his name illustrious by one discovery is content to stop there?

Millionaires, however, are compelled by their selfish interests to help along the "artistic and professional workers who are doing really good service to their generation." It is from them, very largely, that comes the money made by capital they employ, and must employ architects, engineers and other professional men. Their costly tastes, their very luxuries, create the bulk of the demand for artistic work. Already their capital, aggregated in great corporations gives an incentive to scientific discovery of their demands stimulates industries and promotes the establishment of new

industries to satisfy them. Undoubtedly out-and-out gifts from rich men for the foundation of endowments to support special lines of investigation like those of which our Los Angeles contemporary speaks may serve a good purpose; but, after all, what great contribution to science has been made under such an institutional stimulation?

The problem with millionaires who want to give money for the bei efit of their fellows-and there are many of them-is to find a way of giving tha will actually accomplish the result intended. The uplifting of society has not come, like FAY of Upper Jay, JAMES BYRON

and it will not come, from any millionaire's "generosity," as our Los Angeles contemporary calls it, but from the struggle of men to get up by their own unaided labor-and from ideas and ideals far outside the scramble for material wealth and far above it.

### Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the United States.

In his opening address to the Canadian Parliament, assembled on March 10, Sir WILFRID LAURIER again asserted his almost unlimited admiration for the great American nation. Sir WILFRID never lets slip a good opportunity to declare his esteem for the United States. On this occasion, however, he coupled his declaration of affectionate appreciation with a very clear intimation that he would be what SAM WELLER called "something unpleasanted" if he could advise the Canadian people to look to the United States for an example in matters relating to tariffs.

Sir WILFRID points his finger southward and declares that across the Canadian border there lies "the home of factions, combines and anarchy." "Is it," he said, "at the present moment, when the people of the United States are endeavoring to free themselves from the shackles coiled around them by the monopolies, trusts and combines, which are the direct creation of the American tariff, that Canada should be so foolish and criminal as to follow the example of the high protectionists?"

We admit that we had not quite understood the extent of our national miseries; and our thanks are due to our good friend Sir WILFRID for drawing our attention to the matter. We also compliment him on his skill and power as an orator and on his force and effectiveness as a campaign speaker.

Referring to the commercial relations of the two countries, Sir WILFRID is reported as saying that:

"The attitude of the Government with regard to the convening of the Joint High Commission was that it was not the purpose of the Government to go to the United States for favors of any kind whatever. (Cheers.) If it pleased the United States authorities to have the Joint High Commission reconvened, to have better relations established than those which we have had for the last two years, the Government were always ready to meet them and to receive their advances. But, so far as the Canadian Government were concerned, they had nothing to ask from our American neighbors. We want to be on good terms with them, and are ready to nerottate at all times with them on fair terms, but we shall not take the initiative for new negotiations. If new negotiations are to take place it must be on their initiative."

With all respect to Sir WILFRID, who admires us so much, this is not a very commendable utterance. There is a touch of bombast in an expression which is equivalent to a statement that if the United States thinks it can get on without Canada, it is certain that Canada can get on mighty well without the. United States. It may be the fact, but it is not entirely politic to throw it in our faces at a time when there is unquestionably an increasing feeling on this side of the line for more friendly and closer relations. The United States does not expect Canada to bow the knee and sue for favors of any kind, but nothing is to be gained for either side by any display of bumptiousness.

Canada and the United States are being drawn into closer commercial brotherhood by the operation of broad economic laws, and benefit accrues to both. The wisest course for both is to all unnecessary obstruction to their operation.

# The Indestructible Vacation.

The prospects for a long summer vacation in the building trades in New York city are improving. The bricklayers' laborers want an eight hour day and double pay for overtime. They have struck, and the bricklayers are out with them. The other branches of the trade are thus compelled to stop work. The laborers charge the employers with breaking the arbitration agreement signed last fall, and the employers believe that the open shop policy, involving the employment of union and nonunion workingmen without regard to anything except their ability, must be adopted if they are ever to be able to make and fulfil contracts.

HERMANN ROBINSON, the New York organizer of the American Federation of Labor, advocates the long summer vacation. He says:

" Employers must realize that trades unionism has become one of the fixed and indestructible institutions of the world, and any attempt to de stroy it will only make it stronger. If the open shop is attempted here the employers will find public sentiment overwhelmingly against them."

That is because the open shop means work for fifty-two weeks in the year It is destructive of the fixed and "inde structible" institution of vacations

#### Rochester and the Song Gods. A scholar and an author whom men call ELLWANGER and the gods know as a dweller in Roffa-on-Elia asks us to

build and stock an aviary: " TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In reading your just encomium of the rare poetic genius of FAT of Jay, yesterday, it occurred to me that your many discoveries of the poet in embryo should be grouped together in a grand and immortal galaxy. This sentiment, which I expressed on reading your tribute, was at once concurred in by a number of

friends who have kept pace with your discoveries in the realm of poetry. many appreciative tributes to these otherwise unknown singers, in book form, attractively pre sented-the volume would meet with certain success. I myself would be glad to subscribe for a dozen copies. You certainly have enough precious material to materialize upon, and your Laureates

ought to be known to the world at large! " GEORGE H. ELLWANGER.

It has been our humble but useful task to be the pursuivants of this procession of the Kings of Song. We follow them reverently, happy enough to be touched by the hem of their purple robes. To each melodious personage we cry, with his sad, mad, glad, bad brother SWINBURNE:

Thou art the player whose organ keys are thunders,

And we beneath thy feet the pedal prest." Our work has been futile if a man of letters allows himself to speak of geniuses

ELMORE of Alamo, Colorado SPRIGG and the rest of our batch of immortals as poets "in embryo" and "otherwise As well say that unknown singers." SHAKESPEARE died with all his music in him. FAY, SPRIGG, ELMORE, DITHY-RAMB DICK, the "demoniaco-seraphic," unknown in Rochester? They say that when what's her name, MARIA BEATRICE ELEANORA D'ESTE, was betrothed to JAMES II. of England, she had never heard that there was such a country; but she was only fifteen and had been brought up strictly. We have ourselves had the good fortune to meet, on the extreme northern edge of Holland, with a Dutch woman who had never heard of the United States; but she was a fisher's bride and had no need of ultramarine geography. But not to know the supreme sons of song, to speak of "discovering" them, as if Mount St. Elias were not tall until some cockney slid alongside in his snowshoes! In sorrow and in anger we have to say to Rochester: Get thee into darkness, O daughter of Chaldeans; although you will find it hard work to get any darker than you are. And yet Rochester calls itself

the Paris of Monroe county. Rochester is unworthy of such an anthology as it proposes. Yet it would have that more than golden, that chryselephantine, treasury gilded, paint that lily, have it "attractively presented." The sweat of great men's faces, the brine from divine ducts, the blood of noble hearts, the energies of makers whose nerves are catgut, must be dished up daintily to be gawked at by Rochester! Buy of the maker, Mr. ELLWANGER! Put not your trust in selections. Some day the costliest incunabula may be dirt compared with the song books of our quirister squad.

The observance of special holidays by the various divisions of the large cosmopolitan population of New York city has perceptibly declined in recent years. though the Italian population of New York has been steadily increasing, the observance as a September holiday, of the date of the occupation of Rome by the Italian troops has become desultory. There is no large holiday celebrated among the numerous Germans in New York, and the former iovial observance of "Pfingst Montag" has fallen into neglect. There is a limited, if not perfunctory, recognition of the Polish and Hungarian patriotic holidays in a few districts, and the French festival of the 14th of July is perpetuated as a charitable rather than as a patriotic occasion.

But there is one celebration which does not decline in vigor of heartiness, but remains perennially brisk and lively in observance, and that is the celebration of St Patrick's Day in the morning, noon and night. There is scheduled for this year's observance the customary march, to be made notable for the first time by the use at the head of the line, of automobiles.

The British War Office has just issued statement of the total losses of the British army during the South African war and their causes. They were: Killed in battle and died of wounds, officers, 719; non-commissioned officers and men, 6,863. Of enteric fever, officers, 183; non-commissioned officers and men, 7,807. Other causes, officers, 223; non-commissioned officers and men, 4,926. Grand total, 1,125 officers and 19 596 non-commissioned officers and men. The statistics do not show the killed separately from those who died of wounds, the compilation of which would have involved considerable labor. The disproportion between the number of the officers and those of other ranks who died from enteric fever as compared with those who died from other causes is remarkable, allow these laws full play and to avoid and is due probably to the stronger constitutions of the officers and their bet ter food.

# Turning the Other Cheek.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A year last fall, former Senator Hill, being in undisputed control, threw former Senator Murphy's Troy delegates out of the Democratic State convention and bumped them good and hard, for no discernible reason As if to emphasize his determination to crush whom he could not control, Mr. Hill in like manner removed from the convention delegates friendly to Mr. Murphy from the counties of Albany, Cayuga, Clinton, and Fulton and Hamilton. Mr. Murphy was palpably and properly indignant, and it was expected that when the time came around for the selection of national delegates there would be something doing in the way of revenge and reprisal.

Now, however, when Mr. Murphy's friends are lining up to help him take a fall out of the man who despitefully used him, the announcenent is made that Mr. Murphy has accepted a seat in Mr. Hill's band wagon, leaving it be inferred that there will be no revenge and no reprisals save those of 'which Mr Murphy's friends and loyal servitors shall be the victims.

Can it be possible that Mr. Murphy has so soon forgotten what the Hon. Sam Fessenden said to the Hon. Joe Manley at the Republican national convention in 1896? Or is this his method of making known to his fellow Democrats his belief that he has been whipped t a standstill? AN ANTI-INSTRUCTION DEMOCRAT.

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., March 15.

# Questions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If the Northern Securities suit had been brought by Peter Power would the decision have been Mr. Knox states that he contemplates bringing no other suits, and Mr. Roosevelt that

the Government will be careful "not to run amuck." Why is this so? Are there no other criminals? How about the New York Central and Lake Shore Railroad, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, Penn sylvania and Baltimore and Ohio, New York

New Haven and the boat lines? If the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio combine is illegal, what must the Pennsylvania do with its Baltimore and Ohio stock, as it was bought in the open marke and the sellers can't be found? Burn it up? Does the decision of Justice Brewer warn the Government? He seems to say: "Yes we, after a hard struggle, will grant this case, and I do not agree with the majority's opinion, but I join in the decision. careful, just because we allow you. Mr. Gov. ernment, this decision, not to start vexatious

litigation. In the words of the old poem, if I was asked that were they fighting fer, I should say "Damned if I know, but 'twas a glorious vic

# NEW YORK, March 16.

Ireland. Full many a night when wrapt in dreamy sleep I tread again a far-off verdant land. And fairles chase them back to join the deep I view once more the embattled bridge's sweep Where died my fathers in a futile st

Brave hearts, they falled, yet was their struggle

A vigil o'er their dust the crosses keep. feast my eyes upon each varied scene. The emerald fields, the laughter-loving sea: And as I gaze where lie the valiant dead My soul aspires to be what they have be Faithful in life to Truth and Liberty;

Resting in death, the cross above my head

### ROOSEVELT-ODELL.

President Roosevelt, not long ago, asked some of his friends in the New York State Republican Congress delegation to ascertain the opinions of their constituents toward his nomination and to give their unbiased conviction as to his chances of carrying the State next fall. Some of these Repub lican Congressmen have handed in their reports to the President. They are to the effect that most Republicans look upon the President's nomination as a foregone conclusion. It is a general view that he has given Chester A. Arthur "cards and spades" in the game of politics: that, from his first hour in the White House, the President has played the game hard and stern and has proved himself to be very much more of an expert practical politician than President Arthur, who was familiarly called "Chet" by the Johnny O'Briens, the Barney Biglins, the Jake Hesses, the Johnny Nugents and the Steve Frenches of his

Above and beyond this, though, President

Roosevelt, unlike President Arthur, is not

day in New York politics.

confronted by the opposition of such astute politicians as Theodore Roosevelt, Andrew D. White, Roscoe Conkling and Thomas ( Platt of New York; Powell Clayton of Arkansas, Augustus Brandegee of Connecticut, Shelby M. Cullom and John A. Logan of Illinois, Benjamin Harrison of Indiana, James S. Clarkson of Iowa, Preston B Plumb of Kansas, William O. Bradley of Kentucky, James G. Blaine of Maine, George F. Hoar and Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, Dwight M. Sabin and Cushman K Davis of Minnesota, John M. Thurston of Nebraska, William Walter Phelps and William J. Sewall of New Jersey, Joseph B. Foraker, William McKinley, Jr., and Mark A Hanna of Ohio; James McManes and Hamilton Disston of Pennsylvania, and Redfield Proctor of Vermont, who, with more of similar calibre, brought about Arthur's defeat for the Presidency and Blaine's nomination, to be followed by the Maine statesman's defeat.

Concerning the President's chances of carrying his own State next fall the Republican Congressmen reported that at present reckoning New York was lost to the Republicans, but that much encouragement should be taken from the attitude of the Democrats led by David B. Hill. Hill has not been in favor with the Democrats of the State, especially since the notable campaign of 1902, when he threw away a Governor, an entire State ticket, all the important patronage in the Albany departments and possibly United States Senator to succeed Senator Thomas C. Platt by nominating the insignificant Coler and injecting an ultra-social istic coal plank into the platform.

Bryan, in his confidential moods, when speaking of Hill and his coal plank, says: "Hill and his coal plank beat anything ever said or did out of sight."

The Republican testimony to President Roosevelt dwelt somewhat on the President's own attitude toward such Republicans as Representative Lucius N. Littauer. As one Republican puts it. "What's the use of being a Republican when President Roosevelt invites such a man as Littauer, with the glove contract scandal hanging

over him, to his table in the White House?" Further Republican testimony is that he President was shrewd when he declined to entertain the suggestion of several financial friends of Gov. Odell that he make Odell chairman of the Republican national committee to conduct the campaign for his election. It has been pointed out to the President that Gov. Odell is surrounded at Albany by Republicans who like the Governor, indulge in the bitterest criticisms of the President and some of whom, in private utterances, declare that they will not vote for the President on Nov. 7.

That Gov. Odell desired above everything o be made chairman of the Republican national committee is admitted by his confidential friends. Failing in that, the Governor desires to be made chairman of the Republican State committee. He has two motives, both equally important. He hopes to retain his power over the Republican State machine and he is also well aware that the Treasurer of the national committee, according to custom, is to furnish all State chairmen with funds with which to conduct the campaign in their States These funds would help Gov. Odell to elect an Odell Legislature.

The Republican testimony to President Roosevelt was also that Gov. Odell has been more interested in building up an Odell machine in the State through his \$101,000,000 canal enlargement plan than in carrying the State for a Republican Preside nt this fall. Moreover, President Roosevelt was informed by his investigators that this canal legislation has so angered the farmers in the country districts of the State which for years have furnished the Republican party with its majorities that there is now little or no hope of carrying the State this fall. There was a partial amendment to this statement to the effect that the President "might skin through" but that Gov. Odell's State ticket is surely doomed to defeat, and that Odell cares little for that if he can retain control of the Legislature.

In a word, the situation is almost identical with 1888, when Harrison carried the State for the Presidency and Warner Miller. because of his high license plank in the State platform, was defeated for Governor. Only the anger of the Republican farmers who in 1903 in forty-three counties gave majori ties aggregating 97,115 against Gov. Odell's

canal enlargement scheme is very much more intense and keener for election day results against Gov. Odell and the Republican party than the feeling was against Warner Miller in 1888. Harrison carried the State in that year by 14,373 and Hill beat Miller for Governor by 19,171.

Furthermore, the testimony of the Republicans to President Roosevelt was that the Republican farmers of New York State not only felt that they had been tricked into voting for Gov. Odell's reelection in 1902 only to have him saddle them the following winter with taxes which they could ill afford to pay at this time, but that they were now fully aware that Gov. Odell's \$101,000,000 canal enlargement scheme before it is finished will call for an expenditure of \$300,000,000, with additional taxation upon themselves, and all for the purpose building an Odell political machine in the State through the appointment of a regiment of Odell canal engineers and inspectors, thousands of Odell minor office holders and the giving out of gigantic canal contracts to favored Odell contractors. Political machines control caucuses not elections.

# A "Reliable" Clairvoyant Puts Himself to the

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I am a reliable clairvoyant and have made many predictions that were remarkably fulfilled, and therefore I predict

During the closing week of March the weather very stormy and windy. The month of April will be warm and dry. During the first half of April many fires will occur March 26 will witness some public calamity in

March 31 a great flood will occur in New York M. HINES, Jr. CENTRAL FALLS, R. 1., March 16. Parried. Stella-Haven't you worn that gown several

Impossible, dear; I got it on your twenty

RUSSIAN LOYALTY TO THE CZAR. An American in St. Petersburg Writes of

Events and Sentiment There. St. Petersburg, March 3 .- An incident that occurred very recently has probably

not yet reached the American press A few days ago the Dowager Empress was returning from the Winter Pa yee to her own Anitchkoff Palace, in the Nevsky Prospect, when the people stopped her sledge, presset about her, kissed her cloak, sang the Church prayers and the national anthem, kneeling there in the street; she tried to speak to them but could only say, "My dear children," and then burst into uncontrollable sobs. How the common people in Russia do love her! learned early in life the value of a smile

home, cannot imagine the intens devotion of the common people to their rulers. The average American entertains the ide so far from the truth-that Russia is in the throes of perpetual conflict between Government despotism and popular Nihilism; but the discontent, the plotting, is limited to a small class students, &c. -that institutes it among a larger class, to which all the incendiary riff-raff of the cities naturally flock. But the great mass of the people reverence almost worship-the Czar and the royal house, with an unreasoning, extravagantbut very touching-devotion.

To show the state of feeling among the St. Petersburg populace: A week ago I was crossing the Nikolai bridge when an old peasant hurried past, and spoke to a soldier

crossing the Nikolai bridge when an old peasant hurried past, and spoke to a soldier standing there. "Brother, are you going to the war?" "I suppose so." "Here, little brother, this is all I have, take it," and he handed the soldier a small bottle of vodka, while they both wept. Such incidents are of common occurrence now.

All feminine Petersburg is hard at work. The ladies of the American colony have been holding sewing meetings, at which they have done everything from shirts and sheets to bags for pipes and tobacco. Last night they sent off fifty of these, tobacco and a pipe in each bag. The pipes are so small and dainty that even an enemy of tobacco would forgive their use. At the palace—the Winter Palace—the ladies have been making them too, of chamois skin: each bag cut from the centre of the piece, and the rest thrown away. They always wear gloves when they sew. The American ladies think their own little gaudy calico bags will be quite as popular. A week or so ago M. Troinitzky, Director of the Census, told us that the young Grand Duke Michael, heir apparent, and about 22 years old, was anxious to see the automatic tabulating machines we brought out from America last year for the census work here. So he requested us to don full dress next day to be presented, and in company with M. Troinitzky to explain the machines—in Russian, of course. We felt ridiculous, sallying forth in the morning in dress suits—being Americans and neither butlers nor footmen. Every one else there was in uniform. Gen. Zolitar-off, president of the statistical committee, and M. Troinitzky heir and buke regular breastplates of orders, and the Adjutant was brilliantly garbed.

The Grand Duke is very tall and thin, with derk beit and hig eyes that never look at the

and M. Troinitzky and regular breasthates of orders, and the Adjutant was brilliantly garbed.

The Grand Duke is very tall and thin, with dark hair and big eyes that never look at the person with whom he is talking. He is very fond of machinery, and personally examined the instruments. The director, although so familiar with "His Imperial Highness," seemed to be aquake with nervousness.

At Michael's departure a throng of women from another part of the palace rushed forward, pushed aside the police, and tore off one of the Grand Duke's gloves—he saved himself from being dragged out of the sledge only by grasping the coachman's belt. Two girls perched on the footman's ledge back of the seat. The adjutant lost a spur, and the old General was knocked on all fours in the snow.

old General was knocked on an round snow.

Here is a peculiar coincidence—I wonder if it has reached the American papers? Last spring many of the common people were excited because the ice had sunk in Lake Ladoga, instead of floating down through the Nevs, its outlet to the sea, at the time of the spring break-up. This, which is a most unusual phenomenon, was, they said, an infallible sign of war. It was spoken of on all sides and in view of subsequent occurrences it will probably root the people still more firmly in their fatal superstitiousness.

ess. Everything here is war—the talk is all thout the war, and the streets are full of tights connected with it. Uniforms are everywhere. The atmosphere of the city is one of tense emotion—a constant display of one of tense emotion—a const patriotism and determination.

England's Need of Ireland in Case of War. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If Englan should be drawn into the Eastern conflict, we will soon see the error of Dr. Parkhurst's statement that the English have "no use" for the Irish. In the event of international complications, a good ise will be found for the services of every Irishman who can be persuaded to enlist in the cause o England. The South African war saw the fulfilment of

prophecy in an old Irish song: "Proud England, mind the Irish-

You'll need them bye and bye.' The blunders of dull Anglo-Saxon Generals were the cause of Boer triumphs as well as of the slaughter

of their own troops. To retrieve disaster Irish brought to a successful close.

England found it difficult to obtain men for distaste for warfare. A conscription act wa talked of by the English press, when England was

service in South Africa. Centuries of national activity have not changed the old Anglo-Saxon ers. The physical measurements and requirements for enlistment were lowered, but even ther some anxiety was felt on account of the scarcity of men. To propitiate the Irish, green ribbons were displayed in London on St. Patrick's Day, and England's aged Queen was sent to Ireland to act as recruiting agent for the English armies. If England should become involved in the pres

ent struggle, she would need much larger forces than were employed in South Africa. In that war, she drew troops from India: if she were in this, she would have to strengthen her forces in India, while maintaining strong reserves for hor defence, and equipping men for operations else Such numbers of men as she would need could not be obtained through voluntary enlist ment in England. A draft act might be passed, but it would be too unpopular to be considered except as a last resort. Even if voluntary enlist ment would furnish enough men, a great part of them would be physically unfit for hard service. In such an emergency, would England have no use for the most athletic and the most warlike race in Europe? The land concessions that have been granted to Ireland are the result of hard English hinking during the South African war. must be called upon to defend the high and mights Anglo-Saxon race, if it should find itself in an NEW YORK, March 12.

# New York at the Vatican.

From the Tablet.

The offering of Peter's Pence from New York was

particularly generous one, and the Holy Father was much touched on learning the amount. Im-mediately afterward Archbishop Farley presented to the Holy Father a small group of very distin guished Americans: Mr. Crimmins, with his soi and daughter, who presented a purse of gold to be distributed among "the Pope's own poor"; Mr. Seth Low, ex-Mayor of New York, whom his Holi ness said he knew "to be a truly good Christian," and Mrs. Low, who had brought with her a large packet of beads to be blessed by the Pope for he Catholic friends: Mr. Edward Farley, nephew the Archbishop, and a number of priests from the archdiocese. His Holiness offered a set of medals containing his effigy, in gold, silver and bronze, both to Mr. Crimmins and Mr. Low, and silver medals to the rest of the party, and in the little speech he made to them referred with deep gratitude to the beautifully illuminated series of reso lutions on the death of Leo XIII. which had been sent him by the New York Board of Aldermen and of which Mr. Low was the chief signatory.

#### Getting Into Congress and Out. From the Washington Post.

"Can we get out this way?" asked one of a party of ladies of Representative Babcock, in one of the House corridors, the other day. "Yes, madam." answered the Wisconsin states who has just come off victorious in a hard fight for renomination, "you can get out most any way." Then he added, reflectively: "It's a lot caster to get out of Congress than it is to get in."
"Oh, we didn't have any trouble at all getting in,"
returned the woman, who falled to see the point.

### "I did, madam," said Babcock, as he solemnly A Place for a Peliceman

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SIX-Sir: A policema should be stationed for crossing duty at the corner of Fulton and Nassau streets. Manhattan - at leas during the morning and evening hours, when pe are going to and from business. The cond this point are very bad and extremely dangerous for pedestrians. The truckmen are seldom disposed to stop, and frequently the foot passenger can cross only at great risk of injury.

Up to Date.

Mrs. Knicker-Is she thinking of getting a di Mrs. Bocker-No; she is going to apply for a decision dissolving her merger.

RAILWAYS VERSUS SEA POWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: Among problems of the future on the solution of which the Russo-Japanese war may be expected to throw some light, is that of railways versus sea power. In this war we see one of the combatants with its home base within easy distance of the enemy's coast and with the practically uninterrupted com mand of the sea. The other combatant's home base is connected with the scene of operations by an indifferently constructed single line of rail some five thousand and odd miles long, but which, in spite of climatic difficulties and a serious highest one twini, necessitating a tedious fransfer of passengers in winter and the transportation of trains by steamer in summer, appears to be functioning more or less satisfactorily. That Admiral Makaroff made the journey from St. Petersburg to Port Arthur in less eighteen days, notwithstanding the severe stress on the line at present.

It is now thirty-five days since the Japanese began throwing their army into Corea and pushing it forward toward the Yalu. where the Russian advanced force is en trenched in unknown strength; and as yet the two armies have not come into contact. though, following the precedent of the Chinese-Japanese war, an engagement should have taken place more than a week ago. does this mean but that the Japanese appreciate the difference of circumstances and that, whereas the destruction of the Chinese fleet left the field clear to them on land, the Chinese army being cut off from its supplies by sea, the immobilization of the Russian naval forces has not so resulted. The reason is the existence of the Siberian-Manchurian Railway, which enables the Russian army hi the front to be steadily reinforced from an unattackable base, and that the Japanese are compelled to act on exterior lines.

It is of course very difficult to form a clear judgment of the actual situation in the Far East so meagre and conflicting are the reports of what is passing; but it would almost seem as if it would have been a wiser policy on the part of Russia to confine its naval armament at Port Arthur and Vladivostok to a sufficient number of powerfully armed and armored monitors of moderate speed to supplement the land defences, and a strong flotilla of first class torpedo boats and tor pedo boat destroyers, and to have devoted to the increase of the efficiency of the railway on which the salvation of Russia's prestige and power in eastern Asia now depends, the millions that have been sunk in battleships of very doubtful value. For aggressive tacsquadron of swift and heavily armed cruisers with a wide area of action would have been sufficient to create diversions and

disturb the enemy's combinations. It now remains to be seen whether the sea Power or the railway Power will win: for, if the latter comes victorious out of the contest, the old theories of sea power will have to be revised, especially when, as in the case of Russia, the railway Power has no overse colonies and dependencies to defend. But should win, the problem would not be finally vitiate the full advantages of the power inherent in the possession of the railway by Russia. It would still stand for solution under more equal conditions; and on the solution the balance of world power would

NEW YORK, March 16.

Complaint Against Mayor McClellan.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I am an admirer of our energetic young Mayor, and a short while ago I read with much interest his speech at a dinner of publishers in which he laid claim without reservation, to the proprietorship of "the best newspaper in the country." He named the City Record as the paper and declared it a model

Last Saturday I desired to ascertain without delay the name of the Congressman representing a Harlem district in which a friend of mine re-sided. I recollected the Mayor's remarks, and thought that the office of the City Record was the place to obtain my information. Thereupon I called up on the telephone and made my request, giving the street and house number of my friend

whose Representative's name I wanted to learn.

The answer came back over the phone that
"it was the Twenty-fifth Congress district, but they didn't know who represented it." Later in the day I secured a list of members of Congress and saw that the Twenty-fifth district of New York is epresented by Lucius N. Littauer, whose hom is in Gioversville, N. Y. As it is evident that he is not the man whose name I wanted, I am in consequence much disappointed at the misinformation given out by the City Record and think that the Mayor will have to modify his cl the state of perfection existing in his "best in the DIBAPPOINTED

#### Congressmen Who Stick Together. From the Washington Post

Senator Frye and Representative Alexander, of New York, both natives of Maine, were walking up Pennsylvania avenue from the Capitol together a few days ago. Mr. Frye was grumbling about the aggressiveness of the South Carolinians in Con

"They stick together as one man," said he. "Till man wants something. The whole South Carolina crowd joins with him. They fight for it to the last ditch. It's so with the whole of them, when any ne of their number wants anything. They are an obstacle to legislation

"Senator," replied Mr. Alexander, who has stood in with the Maine crowd on many a legislative fight, "that comes with bad grace from you. It's the very thing they say about the Maine fellows You know," he continued, in reproving tones, "when you or Hale send a measure over to the House, what happens? Don't we all join in the fight without asking any questions or requiring any argument? And when a Maine man in the House from any State, has a bill to get through, what de ou and Hale and Perkins and Gibson, of Montana

Mr. Frye, making no audible response, walked on up the Avenue for several minutes in profoun

#### Potatoes at \$2,000,000 a Ton. From the London Dally Matt.

At a sale of seed potatoes at Splisby this week all existing records for extraordinary prices were eclipsed. Six tubers of the Eldorado variety were disposed of by auction, the lot weighing only five ounces. They realized £56 3s. 6d., and as this works out at £402,658 13s. 4d. per ton, it constitutes a world's record. One potato sold for £11 and an other for ten guineas. Nine guineas was paid stone of a new variety, which has been named the Sir John Franklin, and which has only been or the market a fortnight, sold at the rate of £3.00

#### A Politician Writes His Own Epitaph. From the Louisville Herald.

Herman Alston, a member of the Texas Legis ature, was at the Galt House last night, pensive nelancholy, disheartened, because he is a poll

"It's a hard fate to be mixed up in politics." be "Always looking for office. Always reaching out for something. Always getting so little If honest, so much if otherwise I have told my wife that when I die I want ber

to put upon my tombstone the epitaph: 'Her

lles Herman Alston, in the only place for which

### Reminder from "Johnson of Binghamten TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I presume

rou have noticed that Joseph W. Folk carried jus 10 precincts out of 121 in St. Louis. I told you so; I said long ago that St. Louis was The vote shows now tar the city is with Folk his crusade.
F. L. JOHNSON of Binghamton, N. Y. PORTSMOUTE, Oliio, March 15.

Worse Than the Shirt of Nessus

### Hereules was donning the shirt of Nessus. "Yes," he remarked, "this may be poisonous, but t won't saw me like the one that came back from

With a despairing glance at the frayed edges, he chose the lesser evil. A Skit on the Kaiser.

From the London Daily Chronicle.

The latest story of the Kaiser's self-absorption ought to amuse him. There was a conversation about the cares of monarchs, and somebody pu in the inevitable quotation, "As the immortal W. liam says, 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown Dear me!" remarked the Kalser, "I don't remen

ber saying that!"